UNCLASSIFIED

Department of State

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 EA-12 /020 R

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DRAFTED BY: EB/OFP/FPD: GMILLER
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EA/ANZ: PLANGFORD

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 186087

FOLLOWING STATE 186087 DTD 15 JUL, SENT ACTION MOSCOW INFO CSCE COLLECTIVE USNATO LENINGRAD, BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION:

QUOTE UNCLAS STATE 186087

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, UR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JULY 14, 1981

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE RELEVANT EXCERPTS, FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR JULY 14, 1981. SPOKESMAN WAS ALAN ROMBERG.

Q. WHAT DIDN'T YOU HAVE ON BUTTER?

A. THERE IS NO DECISION. I CAN PERHAPS GIVE YOU A FULLER ANSWER OR PERHAPS GO BACK TO JIM ANDERSON'S QUESTION YESTERDAY ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP WITH NEW ZEALAND ON THIS. AS I SAID YESTERDAY, THE ADMINISTRATION IS ACTIVELY EXPLORING VARIOUS WAYS OF DISPOSING OF THE BUTTER STOCK STOCKPILE WHICH IS ACCUMULATING IN THE COMMODITY CREDIT STOREHOUSES. PART OF THE EXPLORATORY ACTIVITY HAS BEEN TO DISCUSS THE WORLD BUTTER MARKET WITH NEW ZEALAND, ONE OF THE MOST KNOWLEDGABLE COUNTRIES ON THIS SUBJECT. BUTTER EXPORTS ARE MORE IMPORTANT TO NEW ZEALAND THAN TO ANY OTHER COUNTRY AND NEW ZEALAND HAS EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN DISCUSSING OUR PLANS WITH US. NEW ZEALAND IS ONE OF OUR CLOSEST ALLIES, AND WE DO NOT WANT TO TAKE ANY ACTION IN ANY AREA AS SENSITIVE AS THIS WITHOUT CONSULTING WITH THEM.

RECENT NEWS REPORTS HAVE GIVEN CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO ONE POSSIBLE WAY OF DISPOSING OF THE CCC BUTTER, THAT IS, A SALE TO NEW ZEALAND. THERE HAVE BEEN NO FINAL DECISIONS EITHER IN STATE OR IN THE ADMINISTRATION OVERALL ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THE CCC'S BUTTER PROBLEM. ANY DISCUSSIONS AS TO PACKAGING OR LABELING, WHICH HAS ALSO BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE PRESS, WOULD LIKEWISE BE PREMATURE.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND OTHER CONCERNED AGENCIES TO FIND THE APPROPRIATE SOLUTION WHICH BEST SERVES U.S. INTEREST WHATEVER THE FINAL DECISION ON BUTTER, IT WILL BE AN ADMINISTRATION DECISION REACHED AFTER INTERAGENCY CONSULTATIONS. IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO GO INTO THE QUESTION OF WHO IN THE ADMINISTRATION IS AYING WHAT TO WHOM AT THIS TIME, AS I ALSO SAID YESTERDAY. THAT'S WHAT I HAVE FOR YOU ON BUTTER. HAIG UNQUOTE HAIG

NOTE BY OC T: ORIG DIST, EUR/CSCE, SIG, PRES, EB, AGR, COME, TRSE, ADS, (70).

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE 4/4/84
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENTORSE EXISTING MARKINGS
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐

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